

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The conveyor belt of Claim 1 wherein A conveyor belt for use in a produce transport system, the belt comprising:

a conveyor belt that the support band includes a support surface having a plurality of drainage openings formed therein; and

a plurality of cushioned produce holders arranged on the support belt, wherein the cushioned produce holders are suitable for holding produce products in place and in a desired orientation on the belt during operation, and wherein the cushioned produce holders are configured to limit bruising and damage to the produce products placed on the produce holders.

3. (Currently Amended) The conveyor belt of Claim 1 A conveyor belt for use in a produce transport system, the belt comprising:

a support belt; and

a plurality of cushioned produce holders arranged on the support belt, wherein the cushioned produce holders are suitable for holding produce products in place and in a desired orientation on the belt during operation, and wherein the cushioned produce holders comprise cushioned paddles arranged so that produce products placed between the cushioned paddles are held in place as the belt is in use, and wherein the cushioned produce holders are configured to limit bruising and damage to the produce products placed on the produce holders.

4. (Currently Amended) The conveyor belt of Claim 3 wherein each of the cushioned paddles comprise a layer of material arranged in a bowed upward loop configuration to provide padding to [[a]] produce products placed on a conveyor belt surface between two adjacent cushioned paddles, the cushioned paddle.

5. (Original) The conveyor belt of Claim 3 wherein the cushioned paddles are arranged so that romaine produce products placed between the cushioned paddles are held in place in a desired orientation as the belt is in use.

6. (Original) The conveyor belt of Claim 5 wherein the cushioned paddles are arranged so that the romaine produce products placed between the cushioned paddles are held so that cut ends of the romaine produce products are oriented toward sides of the belt.

7. (Currently Amended) The conveyor belt of Claim 2 [[1]] wherein the cushioned produce holders include cushioned holding pads arranged on the belt so that produce products placed in the cushioned holding pads are held in place as the belt is in use.

8. (Original) The conveyor belt of Claim 7 wherein the cushioned holding pads are arranged so that lettuce produce products placed on the cushioned holding pads are held in place in a desired orientation as the belt is in use.

9. (Original) The conveyor belt of Claim 7 wherein the cushioned holding pads comprise cushioned annular holding pads having an annular shape configured so that produce products placed in an open central portion of the annular holding pads are held in place in a desired orientation as the belt is in use.

10. (Original) The conveyor belt of Claim 9 wherein the cushioned annular holding pads are suitable for holding an iceberg lettuce product placed in the open central portion of the cushioned pad so that a cut end of the iceberg lettuce product is facing upward from the surface of the belt.

11-59. (Cancelled)

60. (New) A conveyor belt for use in a produce transport system, the belt comprising:

a support belt having an inner surface and an outer surface and penetrated with many drainage openings that enable fluids to drain off the support belt and drain off produce products carried by the support belt; and

a plurality of cushioned produce holders arranged on the outer surface of the support belt, wherein the cushioned produce holders are arranged to hold produce products in place on the outer belt surface between adjacent cushioned produce holders in a desired orientation during operation of the belt, and wherein the cushioned produce holders are configured to limit bruising and damage to the produce products placed on the produce holders.

61. (New) A belt as in Claim 60 wherein the cushioned produce holders comprise a layer of material affixed to the support belt in a bowed upward loop configuration enabling the produce products to be held in place on the outer belt surface between the upward loop of two adjacent cushioned produce holders enabling the produce product to be held in a desired orientation.

62. (New) A belt as in Claim 60 wherein the cushioned produce holders each comprise a solid cushion having sufficient softness and sufficient stiffness wherein the cushions are arranged to hold produce products in place on the outer belt surface between an adjacent cushion enabling the produce product to be held in a desired orientation.

63. (New) The conveyor belt of Claim 2 wherein the cushioned holding pads comprise pads having four cushioned walls surrounding an opening that exposes a surface of the support belt,

wherein the opening is configured so that produce products placed on the surface of the support belt are held in a desired orientation by the four cushioned walls as the belt is in use.